

MR. EDAVANATT S. PADMANABHA MENON (*Shertala I*): May I know from the Government whether any representation has been received for the construction of a compound wall in the Shertala District Hospital?

MR. JAMES SIMPSON (*Darbar Physician*): Yes.

MR. EDAVANATT S. PADMANABHA MENON (*Shertala I*): May I know what has become of that?

MR. JAMES SIMPSON (*Darbar Physician*): The matter will be considered at the time of the Budget.

Price of cocoanut products.

158. ***MR. K. PADMANABHAN** (*Chirayinkil I*): Will the Government be pleased to state with reference to last year (1111):

(a) the average price of cocoanuts per 100 in Travancore markets;

(b) the average price of copra per candy in Travancore markets; and

(c) the average price of coir per candy in Travancore markets?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): (a) The price of cocoanuts with husks per 100 in Travancore markets ranged between Bh. Rs. 2 and Bh. Rs. 4-8-0 and without husks between Bh. Rs. 1-12-0 and Bh. Rs. 3-12-0.

(b) The price of copra per candy in Travancore markets ranged between Bh. Rs. 50 and Bh. Rs. 105.

(c) The price of coir per candy in Travancore markets ranged between Bh. Rs. 28 and Bh. Rs. 60.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*): May I know from the Government whether they have found out a scheme by which the price of cocoanut products should be enhanced?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): It is not possible for Travancore Government to do much in that direction. It depends mainly upon world conditions.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*): Are the Government aware that the price of cocoanut products has fallen very low?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): The price is slowly rising now.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*): May I know whether Government intend to take steps to increase the price of cocoanut products by finding out new markets?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): The Government have their Trade Agent to find out new markets in India and thus there is the possibility of increase in the price of cocoanut products.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*): May I know from the Government what action has been taken in regard to the suggestion at the last budget session?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): Nothing has been done to my knowledge.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*): May I know whether this Government have moved the Government of India in the matter?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): They have been doing that.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*): How long since it was done?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): I claim notice.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know whether there is an export duty in Travancore on cocoanut products?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): Yes.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Do the Government think that by the abolition of export duty they could increase the price of cocoanut products?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): Probably the producer may get an enhanced price.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know whether the Government are aware of a duty on agricultural products either in British India or in Ceylon?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): On some articles there are export duties.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Is it for agricultural products?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): Yes.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know whether there is export duty on Ceylon cocoanut products?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): No export duty.

MR. CHANGANACHERY K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Pattanapuram cum Kunnattur*): With reference to the answer to part (b) may I know whether the figure of Rs. 105 is correct?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): I got the figures from the Assistant Commissioner, Parur.

MR. CHANGANACHERY K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Pattanapuram cum Kunnattur*): For what month is it?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): I cannot say.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): May I know whether this export duty is a protective duty or a duty for revenue purposes?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): It is both a protective as well as a revenue duty.

Decrease in the yield of coconuts in the State.

159. *MR. K. M. KRISHNAN (*Ambalapuzha II*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) whether they are aware of the present decrease in the yield of coconuts in the State; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) is in the affirmative, whether they have enquired what the decrease is due to?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*):

(a) There was during the last year a fall in the yield of coconuts in Travancore.

(b) This decrease was due mainly to the very long and severe drought of the previous years.